TORONTO

STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED

Traffic Calming Poll Results – Spring Grove Avenue

Date:	February 9, 2016
To:	Etobicoke York Community Council
From:	Director, Transportation Services, Etobicoke York District
Wards:	Ward 17 – Davenport
Reference Number:	p:\2016\Cluster B\TRA\EtobicokeYork\eycc160034-to

SUMMARY

This staff report is about a matter that Community Council has delegated authority from City Council to make a final decision.

At its meeting of September 8, 2015, Etobicoke York Community Council considered Item EY8.50, recommending that a survey of property owners/occupants be conducted on Spring Grove Avenue to determine community support for a proposed traffic calming plan. This report summarizes the results of the traffic calming poll for owners and occupants of Spring Grove Avenue. Polling ballots were mailed to the affected residents on November 17, 2015 and although 71% of the residents on Spring Grove Avenue who responded to the polling supported the installation of speed humps, the minimum response rate of 50% plus one ballot was not achieved.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Transportation Services recommends:

1. Etobicoke York Community Council NOT approve installing traffic calming on Spring Grove Avenue.

Financial Impact

Adopting the above-noted recommendation does not result in any financial impact; however, if Community Council decides to approve installing traffic calming devices on Spring Grove Avenue, the following financial impact will result:

1. The estimated costs for installing two speed humps on Spring Grove Avenue will be $6,000.00. This can be accommodated within funds allocated by City Council as part of the Transportation Capital Budget, subject to competing priorities and funding availability.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

At its meeting of September 8, 2015, Etobicoke York Community Council considered Item EY8.50 (Traffic Calming – Spring Grove Avenue). Although the Traffic Calming Warrant Criteria were not achieved, Etobicoke York Community Council recommended that a survey of property owners/occupants be conducted on Spring Grove Avenue to determine community support for a proposed traffic calming plan. As directed, the City Clerk, Elections and Registry Services Division conducted a survey that was mailed to property owners and occupants on November 17, 2015. The survey is designed to measure community support for speed humps on Spring Grove Avenue. The results are the basis of this report. Map of the area is Attachment 1.

COMMENTS

Spring Grove Avenue is an 8.5 metre wide two-lane road classified as a "Local" road in the City's Road Classification System. The road is located in the residential community east of Old Weston Road and south of St. Clair Avenue West. There are sidewalks on both sides of the road. The statutory speed limit is 50 km/h.

The City's Traffic Calming Policy stipulates that a minimum of 50% plus one of affected households/properties respond, and that 60% of valid responses support the proposal in order to implement the plan.

The following table describes the survey results:

Spring Grove Avenue

Description	Calculations/Data
Total Ballots Mailed	83 (100%)
Ballots Required to Proceed (min. required 50% +1)	42 (50% +1)
Valid Ballots Returned	34 (41%)
Respondents in Favour	24 (71% of respondents)
Respondents Opposed	5 (15% of respondents)
Ballots Spoiled	5 (15% of respondents)

Transportation Services staff is unable to recommend traffic calming as the minimum response rate was not achieved.

Should Community Council decide to proceed with installing speed humps, we recommend that:

1. The City Solicitor prepare a draft by-law for installing two speed humps on Spring Grove Avenue, as shown on Drawings EY15-129 dated July 2015.

2. Transportation Services take the necessary actions to reduce the speed limit from 50 km/h to 30 km/h on Spring Grove Avenue.

The Ward Councillor has been advised of the recommendations contained within this report.

Consultation with emergency services (Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services) is required to ensure that the design and layout of traffic calming proposals do not negatively affect their operations. Although we generally advise emergency services of our intentions, we do not always receive a formal response; however, in the past Toronto Fire Services has provided the following general statement regarding speed hump installation.

> "…Toronto Fire Service is supportive of initiatives that improve the life safety of our citizens. Our concern is that the physical calming measures being proposed may negatively impact emergency response to the area.
>
> The vertical restrictions imposed by speed humps have a much greater affect on large fire vehicles than smaller passenger vehicles. Response time increases with every obstacle a fire vehicle encounters en route from the fire station to the incident. Although the increase at each hump may only be seconds, the cumulative effect can be a significant amount of time that could result in increased property damage, unnecessary injury or loss of life. Speed humps are generally hard on large, heavy vehicles (fire vehicles) and increase the potential to suffer mechanical damage. This in turn can lead to a vehicle being placed out of service for considerable periods of time. Aside from the costs associated with repairs, there is a decrease in the resources available to respond to other emergency situations."

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Map – Proposed Speed Hump Location Plan - Spring Grove Avenue